

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /088 W

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P R 221553Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8279

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: CHAMOUNIST DEPUUY SEEKS U.S. VIEWS ON LEBANESE CRISIS

1. CO). FUAD LAHOUD, CHAIRMAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF
PARLIAMENT AND LEADING MEMBER OF CHAMOUN'S NATIONAL
LIBERAL PARTY, CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON EMBOFF JAN 21. HE
EXPECTED PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH SYRIANS BEGINNING THAT DAY
AND WANTED TO KNOW U.S. POSITION, ESPECIALLY IF SYRIAN
INITIATIVE FAILED AND LEBANESE ISSUE WENT TO UNITED NATIONS.
EH ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT U.S. POLICY ON PARTITION, EXPRESSING
CONFUSION ON THIS POINT. EMBOFF REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:
(A) USG HAS ALWAYS FAVORED MODERATION AND COMPROMISE AS
ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO SOLVE CRISIS. THE SITUATION HAS REACHED
POINT WHERE CURRENT SYRIAN MEDIATION MAY WELL BE LAST CHANCE,
AND USG WANTS IT TO SUCCEED. LEBANESE SHOULD "CONCENTRATE
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100 PERCENT" ON THIS INTTIATIVE AND NOT BE DISTRACTED BY POSSI-

BILITY OF ISSUE GOING TO UNITED NATIONS, WHICH WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE SYRIAN EFFORTS.

(B) USG IS "ABSOLUTELY" OPPOSED TO PARTITION. IT FAVORS THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON. EMBOFF REPEATED THIS SEVERAL TIMES AS LAHOUD KEPT COMING BACK TO IT.

2. LAHOUD APPEARED RELIEVED AT THESE RESPONSES AND SAID HE BELIEVED CHRISTIAN CONCESSIONS TO THE MOSLEMS WERE THE ONLY SOLUTION. THE MOSLEM DEMANDS WERE ESSENTIALLY JUSTIFIED, HE THOUGHT, AND ACCEPTING THEM WAS THE ONLY WAY TO DRAW THE MOSLEMS AWAY FROM THE EXTREME LEFT.

3. LAHOUD WAS CLEARLY UPSET AT CAMOUN'S INTRANSIGENCE. HE CALLED CHAMOUN "OBSESSED" AT PRESENT OVER THE DAMOUR DISASTER. CHAMOUN APPEARED TO COUNT HEAVILY ON US SUPPORT IF AN APPEAL WERE MADE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND LAHOUD FEARED THIS WOULD INDEED COMPLICATE SYRIAN MEDIATION. HE INTENDED TO PASS WORD THAT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF USG SUPPORT IN ANY APPEAL TO UNITED NATIONS.

4. PIERRE GEMAYEL WAS ALSO AN INTRANSIGENT FORCE ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE, LAHOUD BELIEVED, HAVING BEEN CARRIED AWAY BY THE PASSIONS OF THE RECENT FIGHTING. FRANGIE WAS MORE FLEXIBLE, AND HAD ALL BUT AGREED TO SYRIAN FIVE POINTS. BUT UNFORTUNATELY FRANGIE WAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE INFLUENCE OF GEMAYEL AND CHAMOUN. TO COUNTERACT THIS, LAHOUD SAID, "SOMEBODY HAS TO STAND BESIDE FRANGIE" AS A VOICE FOR MODERATION.
LAMBRAKIS

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